



STATE OF NEVADA – DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL

CLASS SPECIFICATION

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>EEO-4</u>	<u>CODE</u>
WILDLIFE HEALTH SPECIALIST	41	B	10.290

Under general direction, the Wildlife Health Specialist performs a variety of duties to enhance and maintain the health of the State's wildlife; develops and administers wildlife disease and nutritional surveillance strategies; designs wildlife health studies; and provides technical expertise and science-based recommendations to department management in regard to new and established programs, projects, and activities.

Examine animals to detect and determine the nature of diseases, nutritional deficiencies, or the cause of death; collect body tissue, blood, urine, feces, or other body fluids or parts for further examination and/or laboratory analysis; operate diagnostic equipment such as radiographic and ultrasound equipment, and interpret the resulting images.

Identify and isolate bacteria, parasites, and microorganisms that threaten wildlife populations; determine sources of contamination, methods of eradication, and possible precautionary or curative procedures; propose regulatory measures as appropriate.

Provide technical expertise to department staff and management and the veterinary community regarding current and potential health issues for the wildlife of the State; coordinate activities with other state veterinary and health professionals; report on wildlife health issues to federal agency officials; write public service announcements to publicize risks, symptoms, and protection against animal borne diseases.

Oversee and participate in the safe and proper use of controlled substances for wildlife capture, tagging, and transport; examine wildlife to determine the nature of disease or injury for appropriate treatment or euthanization.

Ensure the preparation and maintenance of comprehensive records and reports related to animal health issues and activities.

Maintain current knowledge of trends and advancements in animal and zoonotic disease pathology and prevention, and laboratory and field technology and techniques.

Train, supervise, and evaluate the performance of subordinate staff; serve as a project leader for studies requiring additional staff.

Perform related duties as assigned.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

- * Possession of a license to practice veterinary medicine is required at the time of appointment and as a condition of continued employment.
- * A valid driver's license is required at the time of appointment and as a condition of continued employment.
- * Statewide travel is required.
- * The incumbent must be able to perform strenuous fieldwork during fair and/or poor weather conditions.
- * Applicants are subject to a pre-employment criminal history check and fingerprinting.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS (cont'd)**INFORMATIONAL NOTES:**

- * Possession of licenses by the Nevada Pharmacy Board and the Nevada State Board of Veterinary Medicine to administer medicines including controlled substances is required within 12 months of appointment and as a condition of continued employment.
- * A license to practice veterinary medicine issued by the Nevada State Board of Veterinary Medicine is required within 12 months of appointment.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE: Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from an accredited college or university and three years of animal disease diagnosis and pathology experience. (*See Special Requirements and Informational Notes*)

ENTRY LEVEL KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES (required at time of application):

Detailed knowledge of: appropriate means of tissue collection and preservation for laboratory testing; infectious, contagious, and parasitic diseases of wildlife; laboratory techniques used for bacteriology, virology, serology, parasitology, hematology, serum, chemistry, and toxicology; medical terminology for animal anatomy, diseases, conditions, and procedures; microscopic tissue pathology descriptions for the diagnosis of infectious, contagious, parasitic, and noninfectious diseases of animals; noninfectious diseases stemming from nutritional, metabolic, toxic, neoplastic, traumatic, and physical disorders of wildlife; pathological changes which may be observed in evaluating tissues and organs examined at necropsy; professionally acceptable techniques employed in performance of necropsy examinations; zoonotic diseases.

Working knowledge of: metric and English measurement systems and conversions; official regulatory forms of legal and diagnostic significance as they apply to laboratory diagnostic activities; safety precautions used for removal and disposal of potentially contaminated waste materials; trends and advancements in laboratory and field technology and techniques. **Ability to:** administer medicines including controlled substances to animals for sedation, vaccination, treatment, or euthanasia; analyze data and reach logical conclusions; communicate effectively both orally and in writing with people of various social, cultural, economic, and educational backgrounds; develop wildlife health and population control programs; establish and maintain effective working relationships with others; evaluate and compare tissue samples of varying degrees of decomposition for purposes of pathological determination; identify and investigate causal factors of disease and mortality such as environmental conditions, nutrition, and morbidity; maintain medical records of wildlife studies and specimens for scientific, legal, and historical purposes; perform necropsies; prepare and deliver oral presentations to regulatory, medical, media, and public audiences; utilize veterinary and field equipment necessary to capture, diagnose, and transport wildlife; write grammatically correct business correspondence.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES (typically acquired on the job):

Detailed knowledge of: State regulations related to wildlife. **Working knowledge of:** agency policies, procedures, and guidelines related to assigned functions; public and media relations; wildlife of the State including game animals, fish, and fowl. **Ability to:** train, supervise, and evaluate the performance of assigned personnel.

This class specification is used for classification, recruitment, and examination purposes. It is not to be considered a substitute for work performance standards for positions assigned to this class.

10.290

ESTABLISHED: 7/17/06UC